

found in the same family of letter grouping. In Professor Hermans' clinic case sheets are not only given the code number as required by the international classification of disease, but also his own classification coding. Furthermore, all photographs, biopsy reports, x rays, mycology data, etc., are filed in the appropriate departments of the clinic under the same coding system. Thus, any worker in the clinic who wishes to do research on a particular subject may in a few moments obtain all the case notes, photographs, and collected reprints and references referring to the disease in question.

The book gives all synonyms for diseases in common use, and the classification is presented in English, French, German, and Spanish. There is also an Index of Authors. The book represents 15 years' work, and should be a boon to young consultants who have not yet committed themselves to a form of indexing and classification. Such a scheme must be adopted at the beginning of one's professional life, and it is the constant complaint of some senior specialists that their accumulated clinical material is not more orderly and more readily available.

M.G.

Recent Advances in Venereology. By Ambrose King. 1964. Pp. 496. Churchill, London. (60s.)

This newcomer to the "Recent Advances" series surveys the more significant contributions about venereology, which have been published during the past decade. The standing of the author ensures that this review is thorough, critical, informative, and clearly presented. As it considers the published work of the past 10 to 15 years, this book has a broader perspective and gives a more matured assessment than is often found with reviews which appear at shorter intervals.

The whole field of venereology is covered in fifteen chapters and the 496 pages include some 1,450 references; there are four diagrams, a number of tables, and a detailed subject index. All the individual chapters are of a high standard and will be of interest and value to those practising in venereology. The section on Reiter's disease will be helpful to the many physicians and surgeons concerned with the diagnosis of polyarthritic conditions. The multiplication of new serological tests for syphilis in the past 15 years using treponemal antigens and immunofluorescence has made it difficult for many physicians to avoid confusion and to understand the full significance of the reports issued by the serologist. These serological developments are clearly discussed in Chapter 6, which will be invaluable to all those who order blood tests for the diagnosis or

exclusion of syphilis. There are chapters on non-gonococcal urethritis, ophthalmia neonatorum, and trichomoniasis, in addition to those dealing with syphilis, gonorrhoea, chancroid, lymphogranuloma venereum, and granuloma inguinale.

This book will be invaluable to all venereologists for reference purposes and a copy should be at hand in all venereal diseases clinics. The burden of compiling this review must have been very considerable and the many venereologists who will read and refer to it will feel indebted to the author for his labour.

S.M.L.

Venereal Diseases. By Ambrose King and Claude Nicol. 1964. Pp. xv+301, 164 figs, 16 col. plates. Cassell, London. (50s.)

The introduction of penicillin some 20 years ago profoundly influenced the treatment of both syphilis and gonorrhoea, and later antibiotics and drugs have also made their impact on the management of the other venereal diseases. Some years were required to assess the new therapeutic situations and only now has sufficient time elapsed for broad agreement to be reached regarding dosage and the long-term effects of antibiotic treatment, particularly in the case of syphilis. The rising incidence of infections recently reported from many countries, and the widespread lack of interest in and teaching about the venereal diseases during the past decade, are additional reasons for welcoming this new and authoritative textbook.

The authors need no introduction, because each has a world-wide reputation for clinical work, research, and teaching of the highest standards. In the light of their credentials one has every reason to expect that this new text-book by King and Nicol will be of the highest quality and its readers will not be disappointed. One of the major difficulties in writing a text-book is to decide what to include and what to omit, and the authors have achieved a fine balance in their clear and succinct presentation. In 26 chapters they cover all the official venereal diseases, the other sexually-transmitted infections, the various other conditions met with in VD clinic practice, and the non-venereal treponematoses. Their teaching and recommendations are orthodox and practical and an excellent Appendix describes clearly the laboratory and other techniques in common use. The book has 180 excellent illustrations, some additional diagrams and tables, and a good index. The format is attractive and the very modest price makes this text-book a real bargain. Experienced venereologists throughout the world will read it with interest; those less experienced in the